

## **Archives of the Lyon Sino-French Institute: Research Project, Cultural Heritage and Digitization**

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The Institut franco-chinois (Sino-French Institute / SFI, 里昂中法大學) in Lyon was a specialized college within the University of Lyon aimed at integrating and mentoring Chinese students. Founded in 1921, it hosted 473 Chinese students during its 25 years of existence. After their studies in France, the students would then return to China and provide the skilled intellectuals China lacked. At least a quarter of them returned to China with a Ph.D.. Many of them had outstanding careers as writers, artists, surgeons, professors or politicians, and made a considerable contribution to the development of modern Chinese society. Owned by the University of Lyon 3 and kept by the Lyon Municipal Library, the archives of the Lyon Sino-French Institute (administrative records, students dossiers, Ph.D. thesis, library materials,... ) constitute precious historical documents which bear witness of the already long history of scientific, academic and intellectual exchanges between China and Europe, and, here, France. This intervention aims at presenting the various contents of these archives and the potential transcultural history which could be told through them. We will also introduce the research project on the SFI lead by Lyon 3 University and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences of City University of Hong-Kong. Our purpose is to show as well the possibilities that would offer a digitization of this knowledge asset not only for scientific research but also for a public-oriented display of this unique cultural heritage.